



Mojave Gunnery Range "C" MRS-01 Bombing Target

Project Number: J09CA728101

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

2019

Overview

The Mojave Gunnery Range "C" Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is located in Kern County, California, and overlaps the southwestern portion of California City. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified eight project areas known as Munitions Response Sites or MRSs.

A Remedial Action is being conducted on MRS-01 which is comprised of 828 acres.

FUDS are properties that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense and transferred from DOD control prior to Oct. 17, 1986. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the organization responsible for environmental remediation of these properties.

Since hazards from military munitions may remain, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages you to make safety a priority by following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:

Recognize -when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat- do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

Report- call 911 and advise police of what you saw and where you saw it.

History

In August 1944, the Department of the Navy acquired approximately 22,400 acres of desert land near Mojave, California, to be used for training in aerial bombing, strafing (firing of automatic weapons from aircraft onto ground targets), and air-to-ground rocketry. The range was primarily used by aircraft stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Mojave.

The range consisted of seven targets, six stationary and one mobile target.

Following World War II, the gunnery range was used for testing and evaluating pilotless aircraft by both Naval Air Station Mojave and the Army. It was also commissioned as a Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station prior to its closure.

Site investigations indicate that MRS-01 was a bombing target used for bombing and other air-to-ground training.



U.S. Marine Corps flight and ground crew in front of an F4U Corsair airplane. c. 1943. Source: Land-Sea Discovery group collection via Mojave Virtual Museum, www.mojave.ca.us.

Site Investigation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began investigating Mojave Gunner Range "C" in 1999 and determined it was eligible for the FUDS Program in January 2000.

Between 1999 and 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers investigated the gunner range to determine what kind of munitions hazards may remain in the MRSs and to estimate the quantity of those munitions. MRS-01 was determined to have munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris from medium caliber munitions, practice rockets, practice bombs and small arms ammunition.

The 2018 Decision Document records the chosen remedial alternative as removal of DOD Military Munitions from the surface and sub-surface with Institutional Controls to protect current and future site users.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting an instrument-aided surface removal of munitions items that are fully or partially visible on the ground. Vegetation trimming or removal may be conducted in order to fully implement the remedial action. Due to the presence of the desert tortoise, a threatened species, portions of MRS-01 may be excluded in order to protect their habitat. Educational outreach will also be conducted to inform landowners and users of the potential hazards.

After the remedial actions are implemented, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will schedule recurring reviews to evaluate if the institutional controls remain protective of human health and the environment.

Fieldwork Methods

During field investigations and remediation efforts, workers walk or drive across the site along designated paths or transects with specialized metal detectors designed to identify metal objects (anomalies) related to DoD activities.



MetalMapper 2x2 being used to locate UXO. Image courtesy of Geometrics Inc.

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Hazards from military munitions may still remain within the former range. Protect yourself by following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:



Recognize – when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat – do not approach, touch, move, or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area.

Report – immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement – call 911.



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For More Information

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District Public Affairs Office at (916) 557-5100, or SPK-PAO@usace.army.mil. To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.

